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**NEWS RELEASE**

**MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER IN DRUG OVERDOSE  
OF INVER GROVE HEIGHTS WOMAN**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Dennis James Rivers, age 28, most recently residing in St. Paul, has been charged\* with one count of Murder in the Third Degree in connection with the September 21, 2010 death of 46-year-old Heidi Hanson of Inver Grove Heights. Rivers is alleged to have brought the drugs into the victim's home, including cocaine and methadone, which the victim took, causing her death. He was arrested in St. Paul late yesterday.

For a copy of the criminal complaint, go to <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/ComplaintSearch>. A mug shot may be viewed at <http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/InmateSearch> while in custody.

Backstrom stated: "The use of illegal drugs can have deadly consequences especially if multiple illegal drugs are used as occurred in this instance."

Rivers was charged by warrant and will make his first appearance on these charges Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> before noon in Hastings.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.

*\*Criminal charges are not evidence of guilt. A defendant/suspect is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*